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Ed Public Health

(195) Department.

SERIES.

MS

G.O. No. Letter No . 228 P.H.

Dated 25-1-49.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Nursing - Training abroad of Probationer Nurses - Proposal that Candidates may take up specialised courses during the fourth year of the tenure of their scholarships - Views of the Provincial Government - Communicated to the Government of India.

No. F. 4-9/48-T.
Government of India.
Ministry of Health.

New Delhi, the 1st November 1948.

From

Harbans Singh, Esquire,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Subject: Training abroad of Probationer Nurses - Proposal that candidates may take up specialised courses during the fourth year of the tenure of their scholarships.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of letter No.E.S. 585/3, dated the 6th September, 1948 from the High Commissioner for India in London on the subject mentioned above and to enquire what appointments the Provincial Govermnent propose to offer to the Candidates noted in the margin who are likely to return to India in 1950 on completion of training in the United Kingdom. The Government of India would also be glad to be favoured with the views of the Provincial Government on the general issue raised in the High Commissioner's letter as to the desirability of training of probationer Nurses for the fourth year and also for a further short period of six months.

The favour of an early reply is requested.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. Harbans Singh.
Under Secretary.

/True Copy/

Copy of letter No.E.S.585/3, dated the 6th September, 1948 from the High Commissioner for India, London to the Ministry of Health, New Delhi.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence regarding the training of Probationer Nurses in this country, and to say that several of the scholars now starting on their third year of training have raised the question of taking Midwifery Tuberculosis or other specialised courses during the fourth year of the tenure of their scholarship, i.e., after they have completed the three years' training necessary for qualification as State Registered Nurses. To help us to consider these requests and to report on them to the Ministry of Health it would be most helpful if we could be given some idea of the posts to which our scholars are likely to be appointed on their return home.

2. The ~~inta~~ initial difficulty in considering such requests is that many of the hospitals in which our nursing scholars have been placed require their Student Nurses to sign a contract as soon as they have passed through the Preliminary Training School, binding them to stay at the hospital for a four years' period of training i.e. for the three years necessary for qualifying as a State Registered Nurse followed by one year of experience after qualification in their parent hospital as an acting Staff Nurse of Head Nurse of a ward. From informal conversations held with the* Manchester Royal Infirmary, it has become clear that these hospitals would be extremely reluctant to allow the withdrawal of ourscholars at the end of their thid year, though it is open to any Nurse to break her contract on payment of a specified sum which varies from about £5 to £25 according to the hospital concerned. The Mstrons with whom the matter has been discussed obviously attach great value to this fourth year of training during which the newly qualified Nurse first takes real responsibility, and in their view ~~and~~ the transition from unqualified to fully qualified Nurse is made much easier in surroundings which are already familiar. In this fourth year the Nurse also begins to have administrative experience as she is frequently called upon to deputise for the Sister, and in many hospitals arrangements are made for the fourth year Nurses to attend lectures of interest at neighbouring Medical Schools or colleges. Thus fourth year Nurses at the Middlesex Hospital are encouraged to attend evening lectures at the Schools of Tropical Medicine. It might also be added that many of the big hospitals to which our scholars were admitted hold for their Student Nurses an examination of higher standard than that leading to State Registration, and make the award of the hospital medal dependent on success not only in this examination but also on the completion of the fourth year of service.

*Matrons of such hospitals as the Middle Sex, charing Cross and the

3. There are some hospitals at which our Student Nurses are training, such as the Nottingham General Hospital, which have no objection to our Nurses withdrawing after qualifying for State Registration, and in these cases there would be no difficulty about our scholars going on to a Midwifery or other specialised course should be the Ministry so desire. In hospitals where the four year contract is in force, however, insistance that our scholars should withdraw at the end of the third year to take another course would undoubtedly jeopardize the very good relations which exist between us and these hospitals and it might be difficult to secure admission of Student Nurses from India to such hospitals in the future. It would seem at first sight advisable, therefore, that our scholars should remain at their parent hospitals for the full term of their contracts in cases where withdrawal might cause difficulties, but if the Ministry of Health has in mind the

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appointment of these scholars to specialised posts the questio of their training during the fourth year might be opened up again with the Matrons concerned. Alternatively, the possibility of a further short period of training after completion of the four year period might be considered in the case of these students: for instance, Part I Midwifery course which is considered essential for administrative posts in this country would entail a further stay of only six months.

It will be understood that this letter is entirely exploratory in nature and the observations of the Ministry on the question raised would be much appreciated. On the whole the Student Nurses sent over from India have done extremely well so far in their training and we are most anxious so to arrange their training as best to fit them for the work they will be called upon to do when they return home.

True Copy/

Education and Public Health Department.

Letter Ms. No. 228, Public Health, dated 25th January 1949.

To

The Under Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Health,
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

Sub: NURSING - Training abroad of Probationer Nurses - Proposal that candidates may take up specialised courses during the fourth year of the tenure of their scholarships - Views of the Provincial Government - Communicated.

With reference to your letter No.F.4-9/48-T, dated 1-11-48 on the subject mentioned above, I am directed to state that Miss. Kalyani Jeevaneson and the other candidates undergoing training as probationer nurses in the United Kingdom, on return to India, can enter service as nurses only. Their eligibility to higher posts can arise only after they have worked for some time.

2. The Madras Government agree that, where, under the terms of contract, the nurses are so bound, they may serve in the parent hospital for a further year after completion of their three years' course. They also agree that these nurses may undergo midwifery training for the further period of one year, as this training in midwifery for a minimum period of six months is a necessary qualification to a nurse in this Province.

3. It is presumed that the extra cost, if any, on account of the extension of the period of training of the probationer nurses by one year will be equally shared between this and the Central Government.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. x x x
18-1-49.

To the Accountant General .
Copy to the Surgeon General with reference to his letter No.1065518/48-1 N dated 17-11-48.

/True Copy/

Office Assistant,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

ss/28-8.